

to H.R. 2055, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 556

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 556 proposed to H.R. 2055, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1382. A bill to complete construction of the 13-State Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, 46 years ago, Congress made a promise to the thirteen Appalachian Regional Commission member States—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi—to complete the ADHS. The initial Appalachian Regional Commission recognized that, while the Interstate Highway System was slated to provide historic economic benefits to most of our nation, the system was designed to bypass the Appalachian Region. The Commission found that the limited access to these regions stifled the economic opportunities for countless communities—a problem that can unfortunately still be seen all these years later.

Today, I rise to introduce the Appalachian Development Highway System Act of 2011. This legislation will move us toward the completion of the ADHS and keep that promise. This bill would also allow states that have additional ADHS funds they cannot spend to loan to other states throughout the Appalachian region which have ADHS projects that are the closest to commencing construction. Such a provision will mean that funds are spent in the most efficient and streamlined manner possible.

West Virginia represents a microcosm of the transportation successes and difficulties throughout the country. While our state faces challenges, they aren't unique to West Virginia. Communities throughout Appalachia are also tackling these same difficulties.

Since I was Governor, I have known how important ADHS funding is to the economy of West Virginia. The completion of corridor G in the southern part of the state has become a critical link between Pikeville, Kentucky and Charleston, WV much like Corridor D has in the northern part of the state

between Bridgeport and Cincinnati, OH. Today, West Virginia has one more ADHS project left to complete, Corridor H. This four line highway between Weston and the Virginia State Line has approximately 58 miles left to construct until it will be finished.

An effective transportation infrastructure encourages competition, promotes our national security, and creates economic growth. It is also imperative for building our communities by helping bring in businesses, creating jobs, building the economies in our states and cities, and increasing tourism.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, my Committee has jurisdiction over a wide variety of issues. My Committee oversees the safety of our nation's highways, skies, pipelines, waterways, and railroads and it sets the tone of the debate when transportation issues come up in the Senate. I am working on a number of fronts to transform our transportation network.

There is still much of the same isolation and lack of infrastructure in parts of Appalachia today as when the ADHS was envisioned. The Federal Government has a responsibility to keep the promise it made decades ago to the people of Appalachia. Besides the essential need for roads, there is also a critical need for the types of jobs and economic stimulus that highway dollars will bring to these underserved areas.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—WELCOMING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN FOR FREELY AND PEACEFULLY EXPRESSING THEIR WILL THROUGH AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED REFERENDUM, AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE OF SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN TO PEACEFULLY RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES INCLUDING THE FINAL STATUS OF ABYEI

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 25

Whereas the United States was a witness to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which marked the end of more than 2 decades of civil war between North and South Sudan that resulted in the deaths of more than 2,000,000 people;

Whereas the CPA provided the framework for the historic referendum held between January 9, 2011, and January 15, 2011, in which the people of South Sudan voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), as established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1590 on March 24, 2005, was instrumental in supporting the implementation of the CPA;

Whereas the mandate for the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) expired on July 9, 2011, with the completion of the CPA Interim Period;

Whereas the mandate for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), as established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1996 (2011), commenced on July 9, 2011;

Whereas, on February 7, 2011, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announced that the people of South Sudan voted in favor of succession by a margin of 98.8 percent, and President Bashir, on behalf of the Government of Sudan, accepted the results of the referendum;

Whereas the African Union, the Arab League, the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in Sudan, Sudanese Network for Democratic Elections (SuNDE), Sudanese Group for Democracy and Elections (SuGDE), and the Carter Center were among those to report that voting in the referendum was credible and transparent, allowing the people of South Sudan to freely express their desire for independence;

Whereas several outstanding issues and potential points of conflict remain unresolved between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, including the final status of the contested area of Abyei, disputed border areas, popular consultations, citizenship rights and nationality, division of oil resources and profits, currency, international debt and assets, and other matters;

Whereas the CPA parties signed an agreement on June 20, 2011, on temporary administrative and security arrangements for Abyei, including the establishment of a United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the redeployment of all military forces of the Government of Sudan from the area;

Whereas fighting in Southern Kordofan over the past month has resulted in deaths and injuries to civilians, the displacement of thousands of residents, and restricted access for humanitarian workers despite the framework agreement for Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states signed by the Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North on June 28, 2011;

Whereas the needs for security, development, and democracy-building are great throughout Sudan and South Sudan, and the United States and the international community have invested significant resources in order to provide assistance to the people of both countries;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 refugees and internally displaced persons from Sudan and South Sudan continue to be displaced from their homes;

Whereas lasting peace and stability for all of Sudan cannot be realized until a comprehensive peace in Darfur is secured and an appropriate mechanism for accountability and justice is established for those responsible for atrocities and crimes against humanity;

Whereas the United States has a compelling national interest in the security, stability, and development of Sudan and South Sudan in order to prevent conflict, humanitarian crises, and the establishment of safe havens for terrorists;

Whereas Sudan was the first country to formally recognize the Republic of South Sudan on July 9, 2011; and

Whereas the United States Government formally recognized the Republic of South Sudan as a sovereign and independent state on July 9, 2011: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—